

INFORMAL REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

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Recent Developments in the Zistersdorf Oil Fields

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1. New Drilling Machinery

On or about 1 April 1948, five new sets of drilling machinery arrived in the Zistersdorf area addressed to the Soviet Oil Staff. They are of Soviet design, heavy, and of durable appearance, although they are said to lack precision in performance. Drilling rigs were not sent with the machinery, which also lacks other essential parts, such as pumps and chains. As far as [redacted] could determine, one of the new drilling units has already been set up [redacted] Comment: presumably with the use of parts already on hand) near Elzshorn, a small village approximately four kilometers east of the town of Zistersdorf. The Soviets intend to undertake new drilling operations here. It is expected they will have to drill to a depth of about 3000 meters in order to strike oil, a task which will require nearly nine months. The location of the other four sets of new machinery has not yet been established.

2. Arming of the Werkschutz (industrial guards)

depending upon its manufacture, each machine pistol is equipped with either a drum or a magazine, containing twenty-five rounds of ammunition. Details on rifle and pistol ammunition or reserve stocks were not available.

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